

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: MOV 04122.avi

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1400264.000

Medium: Computer Moving Image File

Director: Not stated

Country of origin: New Zealand

Language: Arabic

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Contains graphic violence.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 14 May 2014

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 14 May 2014

	Components	Running time
Timed component(s):	MOV 04122.avi	7:26
Total running time:		7:26

Summary of reasons for decision:

The publication is a video camera recording of a computer screen as a YouTube clip plays. The clip depicts a man being beaten by a large group of men before he is shot and killed. The context appears to be political violence in Syria. The clip is manipulated and repeated. The owner of the publication can be heard throughout the publication.

The publication deals with cruel and horrifying violence. The imagery is startling in impact and harrowing to witness. This publication is likely to cause injury to children and teenagers. It is likely these young persons have never been exposed to this degree of graphic death and violence. They will find this depiction disturbed and upsetting, which is likely to have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing. It could also inure them to such imagery, distorting their understanding of violence and the impacts of violence.

It is likely some adults may find the publication shocking and upsetting. However the publication is similar to material already available to adults and a further restriction on the availability of this publication in particular would be unreasonable. The Classification Office has considered the effects of the NZBR Act on the application of all the classification criteria. The publication is classified objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years. This is the lowest possible restriction on the right to freedom of expression that appreciates the harms discussed above.